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(74) Agents: DOHMEN, Johannes, Maria, Gerardus et al.; Algemeen Octrooi-en Merkenbureau, P.O. Box 645, NL-5600 AP Eindhoven (NL).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): FUJI PHOTO FILM B. V. [NL/NL]; Oudenstaart 1, NL-5000 LJ Tilburg (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

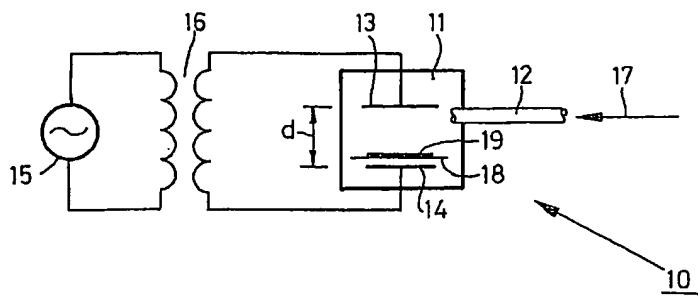
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ALDEA, Eugen [RO/NL]; Strijpsestraat 39 B, NL-5616 GK Eindhoven (NL). BOUWSTRA, Jan, Bastiaan [NL/NL]; Soestdijkseweg Zuid 202, NL-3721 AJ Bilthoven (NL). VAN DE SANDEN, Mauritius, Cornelius, Maria [NL/NL]; P.F. Bergmansstraat 4, NL-5017 JH Tilburg (NL). DE VRIES, Hindrik, Willem [NL/NL]; Hooglandstraat 22, NL-5045 CM Tilburg (NL).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STABILIZING A GLOW DISCHARGE PLASMA UNDER ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS



(57) Abstract: Method and apparatus for generating and sustaining a glow discharge plasma in a plasma discharge space comprising at least two spaced electrodes. The method and apparatus are arranged for performing the steps of introducing in the discharge space a gas or gas mixture under atmospheric pressure conditions, energizing the electrodes by applying an AC energizing voltage ( $V_a$ ) to the electrodes, and controlling the energizing voltage ( $V_a$ ) such that at plasma generation a sharp relative decrease of displacement current is provided.

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